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February 23, 2001

Honorable Philip N. Asprodites
Commissioner of Conservation
State of Louisiana
Post Office Box 44275
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-4275

Re: APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC HEARING.

James Lime, Reservoir A, WEST BRYCELAND
FIELD, Bienville Parish, Louisiana.

Dear Sir:

EL PASO PRODUCTION COMPANY ("Applicant") hereby respectfully applies for a public hearing to consider evidence relative to the issuance of an Order pertaining to the following matters relating to the James Lime, Reservoir A, in the West Bryceland Field, Bienville Parish, Louisiana:

1. To establish rules and regulations governing the exploration for and production of gas and condensate from the James Lime, Reservoir A.
2. To create two (2) drilling and production units for the exploration for and production of gas and condensate from the James Lime, Reservoir A, such units being designated JA RA SUA and JA RA SUB, and being shown on the attached plat.
3. To force pool and integrate all separately owned tracts, mineral leases and other property interests within each of the proposed units with each separate tract sharing in unit production on a surface acreage basis of participation.
4. To designate an Operator of, and unit wells for, the proposed units as may be appropriate.
5. To provide that future wells drilled to the James Lime, Reservoir A, be located in accordance with the provisions of Statewide Order No. 29-E.
6. To provide that the Commissioner of Conservation should be authorized to reclassify the James Lime, Reservoir A, by Supplemental Order without the necessity of a public hearing if the producing characteristics of the reservoir so warrant and evidence to justify such reclassification is submitted to and accepted by the Commissioner of Conservation.
7. To define the James Lime, Reservoir A, as that gas and condensate bearing interval encountered between the depths of 5,948' and 6,172' (electrical log measurements) in the El Paso Production Company (formerly Sonat Exploration Company)--E. W. Merritt No. 3 Well located in the Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4) of Section 13, Township 17 North, Range 7 West, Bienville Parish, Louisiana.
8. To consider such other matters as may be pertinent.

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Pertinent data concerning this application is available for inspection at the offices of Louis Gilbert & Associates, Inc., 3636 N. Causeway Boulevard, Suite 204, Metairie, Louisiana 70002-7216. Any person wishing to inspect such data should call Mr. Louis Gilbert at (504) 834-8112 during normal business hours in order to arrange a date and time for such inspection. A copy of any such data which is not otherwise available from the Office of Conservation can be obtained from Applicant at the expense of the requesting party.

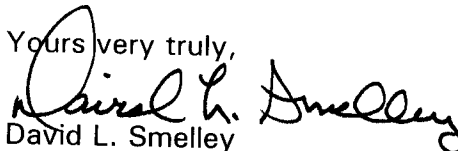
By letter dated February 12, 2001, Applicant gave notice, in accordance with the Revised Rules of Procedure, of its intention to apply for a public hearing concerning these proposals and a pre-application conference with respect to Applicant's proposals was tentatively scheduled for March 7, 2001. No request for the pre-application conference was received; therefore, no conference was held.

Attached hereto is a plat outlining Applicant's proposed units, which plat is identical to the plat attached to the pre-application notice. Also attached hereto is a list of the names and addresses of all Interested Owners, Represented Parties and Interested Parties to whom a copy of this application is being sent. Pursuant to the Revised Rules of Procedure, such list is being forwarded only to the Commissioner of Conservation and to the District Manager of the Shreveport District of the Office of Conservation. A copy of the list will be furnished by the undersigned to any party so requesting. A reasonable effort was made to obtain a complete list of Interested Owners, Represented Parties and Interested Parties.

Applicant will provide for posting of a copy of the Legal Notice of this hearing and the enclosed plat at a prominent place in the area affected and will cause publication of the Legal Notice in a newspaper published in the general area of West Bryceland Field, all in accordance with the Revised Rules of Procedure. Furthermore, a copy of the Legal Notice will be mailed to all Interested Owners, Represented Parties and Interested Parties promptly upon receipt of the Legal Notice from the Commissioner.

Finally, we enclose our check payable to the Commissioner of Conservation for the application fee.

Yours very truly,



David L. Smelley

Attorney for El Paso Production Company

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DLS:dp

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Jim Broussard (w/encls.)
Mr. Gary Griffith (w/encls.)
Mr. Mark Terrell (w/encls.)
Ms. Joyce Watts (w/encls.)
Mr. Louis Gilbert (w/encls.)
Interested Owners, Represented
Parties and Interested Parties
(w/copy of unit plat only)

